



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

May 4, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Heather Chapman, Chair
Eric Ford, Vice Chair
Kara Aanenson
Kirsten Andersen
Diana Barney
Kathy Estrada
Michelle Farr
Anne-Marie Hansen-Combs
Lynette Holmes
Meredith Miller
Elizabeth Park
Janelle Riddick
Heidi Rochon
Kimberly Sauer
Jonathan Shepherd
Shameka Stanford
Darren Stephenson
Jennifer Winter

I. Welcome and Guidelines

Ms. Chapman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and reviewed meeting guidelines.

II. Department of Juvenile Services Pandemic Response

Ms. Aanenson provided updates regarding the Department of Juvenile Services' (DJS) facility and community-based pandemic responses, to include facility closures, accelerated youth discharges, youth relocations to other facilities, and enhanced communication protocols.

Facility responses include the closure of Savage Mountain Youth Center in Lonaconing, and the relocation of its residents to the Victor Cullen Center in Sabillasville. The J. Deweese Carter Center in

Chestertown is also closed.. Residents were relocated to the Lower Eastern Shore Children's Center in Salisbury. Additional facility responses include the use of trailers to allow for groups in smaller settings, increased cleaning protocols, the use of medical isolation for youth who become symptomatic, and weekly reviews of committed youth to assess progress and the need for continued placement.

Community-based staff are providing case management and other services remotely via virtual and phone contact with youth and families. Funding has been provided by The Annie E. Casey foundation to purchase hotspots to maintain evidence-based programming. Community detention staff are managing elevated caseloads due to the increased volume of placement and detention releases, and are also distributing hotspots and other equipment to youth and families.

Communication enhancements include the facilitation of livestream calls with Maryland Coalition of Families to ensure youth and families receive up-to-date information regarding DJS operations, and links to other services / programming. The DJS website is routinely updated to report positive cases for both youth and staff, and hotline / message lines have been activated to support youth and families without internet access. Staff livestream calls are also being conducted and archived to ensure that staff receive up-to-date information regarding Agency operations and human resource considerations.

Regarding continued operation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council, Ms. Aanenson reported that the Department will be in touch with the Legislature to ascertain the management of councils during the pandemic. Secretary Abed and DJS staff provided a [Virtual Briefing: The Department of Juvenile Services & the Response to COVID-19](#) to the House Judiciary Committee on April 27, 2020.

III. Consent Agenda

Ms. Chapman directed those present to the consent agenda that was provided prior to the meeting and noted the items therein: the March 2020 minutes, and Subcommittee Reports. Dr. Park made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Dr. Stanford seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee Report

Mr. Jernigan provided members with an update regarding the Maryland Diversion Toolkit, and advised that a call will be scheduled to determine the SAGs continued interest in moving forward with the Toolkit and develop a workplan. Members were reminded that other individuals and agencies may be recommended to contribute to the Toolkit. Mr. Jernigan also reported that the 2020 Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) RED Conference has been canceled, and elements of that convening will be incorporated into CJJ's 2020 Annual Conference.

V. Old/New Business

- A. [The Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2020 Annual Conference](#) has been rescheduled for November 18-21 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. The SAG will cover expenses for three members to include a combination of the chair, vice chair, and new members.

- B. Mr. Eric Ford, Director of [The Choice Program at UMBC](#) was announced as the incoming SAG chair effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Ford expressed his excitement to be working with SAG members during his pending 2-year term, and plans to strengthen juvenile justice responses across the State.
- C. Second term members that are set to roll off on June 30, 2020 are Melanie Shapiro, Gavin Patashnick, Samantha Wiggins, Heather Chapman, and Donald Foley. Members were thanked for their continuing focus on improving juvenile justice outcomes in Maryland and were asked to attend the next in-person meeting to receive full gratitude from the SAG. Outgoing members were also asked to forward any successor recommendations to Chris Miele.
- D. Members with first terms that will expire on June 30, 2020 that have yet to express intent to renew, are Senator Justin Ready, Jennifer Winter, and Antoine Vaughn. These members were asked to renew their application with the Appointments Office by May 15, 2020 or indicate their desire to release their seat so that recruitment may commence.

VI. FY20 Grants and FY21 NOFA Update

- A. *FY20* - Bridge grants up to 25% of the current award are available for current subrecipients with an award term of July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020 via a streamlined application process. Subrecipients are working to be responsive to COVID-19 within their current awards; no modifications and only one request for a no-cost extension was received. Subrecipients are functioning remotely and able to maintain contact with service populations.
- B. *FY21* - Ms. Wheeler provided a summary and updates to the FY21 NOFA application process including extension of the application deadline via e-vote, and adjusting the start of the FY21 NOFA award term to October 1, 2020. The Grant Training Session has been rescheduled for [May 20, 2020 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.](#) and the Grant Review Session has been rescheduled for [June 3, 2020 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.](#) Post-award support including grant adjustments and technical assistance will be available to subrecipients who require support to address pandemic impacts.

VII. Open Discussion - Coronavirus Pandemic

- Ms. Miller reported that all Americorps Members serving Wicomico County Public Schools are under a stay at home order and unable to meet with students.
- Choices mentors may not enter the field for any reason and the program is funding technology gaps for the individuals they serve. Choices management staff are delivering the equipment. Virtual methods to connect youth and families to behavioral health resources are in place.
- Fearlessly Loving Yourself (FLY) is a mentoring program serving Baltimore City females ages 7-18. Ms. Sauer shared that clients are reporting needs in the areas of utilities, rent, and essential expenses. FLY is seeking grants to purchase technology equipment, supporting families as a whole to access community resources, and assisting those without transportation by retrieving food and delivering it to families. Ms. Sauer shared that other concerns include youth sneaking out in violation of stay at home orders. FLY is working to distribute youth focused coronavirus literature that explains the risks and emphasizes the importance of social distancing.

- Ms. Wheeler advised that providers seeking local pandemic related funding support are encouraged to contact Local Management Boards for assistance. Office staff are available to support those connections, please contact Chris Miele.
- Ms. Rochon advised that Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) is operating 19 active virtual groups across the State at any given time. Families are connecting to these meetings and staff are available to provide navigation support to access appropriate resources, including tech equipment. Please visit the MCF Website to obtain contact information for the representative in your jurisdiction.
- Dr. Shepherd reported that Hope Health Systems (HHS) is accepting referrals and is fully operational via telehealth as they enter into their 7th week of a 100% show up rate. He noted that many customers are struggling and seeking behavioral health support to better manage the mental health impacts of the pandemic. Dr. Shepherd also highlighted racial disparities observed in access to education, mental health, and mentoring services. Mental health services are still being provided by HHS in detention centers. Gratitude was expressed by providing food to facility staff, who are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Ms. Anderson reported that the YMCA Youth and Family Services branch typically provides all services in a school based setting. All staff and clients are now adapting to telehealth and becoming more proficient in the provisioning of services via phone, text, and video calls.
- Ms. Farr advised that the vast majority of Social Services operations are occurring virtually, and that limited face to face services are available depending on the level of risk. Technology limitations result in face to face interactions to ensure that contact can be made when required. Youth focused guidance is available on the Department of Human Services (DHS) website and social media. Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals have reduced dramatically and DHS is working with the Foster Care Court Improvement Program to ensure responsiveness through a triage processing program.
 - Ms. Wheeler reiterated the importance of addressing the reduction in CPS referrals. The Office is working with MD Children's Alliance on a PSA to help ensure that mandated reporters are continuing to safeguard the needs of children.
- Ms. Wheeler also advised that Children's Cabinet Interagency funding for FY 21 will soon be awarded to Local Management Boards across the State to support opportunity youth, reducing youth homelessness, children and families impacted by incarceration, reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), reducing out-of-home placement, juvenile justice diversion, and reducing childhood hunger. The Office is also responsive to pandemic related requests received from subrecipients across the State and has applied for federal funding to bolster pandemic response capacity.
- The United Way of Central Maryland has accessed additional funding to enhance their pandemic response. Ms. Chapman advised that central MD 411's call volume increased from 400 calls per day to 7-900 with a peak of 2000 calls per day. UWCM is working to connect customers to mental health services - please website to contact your local United Way. Central MD 411 went from 400 calls per day to 7-900. Peak was 2000. Ms. Chapman also encouraged members to visit www.greaterbaltimorecovidresponse.org to explore emergency funding opportunities, open through May 29, 2020.

- Dr. Stanford inquired about the availability of pandemic related supports and follow up services for youth that have been released from detention and placement. Ms. Hansen-Combs advised that linkages to services for youth released from committed and detained facilities have been made. For additional questions about specific post-placement pandemic related supports please reach out to Heather Chapman.
- Ms. Chapman inquired of members with respect to specific asks of the State Advisory Group and what if any additional support can be extended to members and/or subrecipients.
 - Mr. Breslin recommended that we consider not just the reality of embracing technology, but that we also consider what best practices can be replicated to ensure those in need of services are able to successfully access them. What is the best way to gather information on the lessons learned to date, and how can the SAG take a leadership role to disseminate this information to all stakeholders?
 - Members agreed that the SAG is an appropriate entity to demonstrate this framework, and encouraged the sharing of best practices for dissemination Statewide.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

July 6, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

<https://meet.google.com/zbi-phsk-ikq>

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NOTE: All meetings will be held via Google Hangouts unless otherwise indicated. Calendar invitations will contain the login information for each meeting. When in-person meetings resume, they will be held at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

[SAG Member Resources - Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services](#)